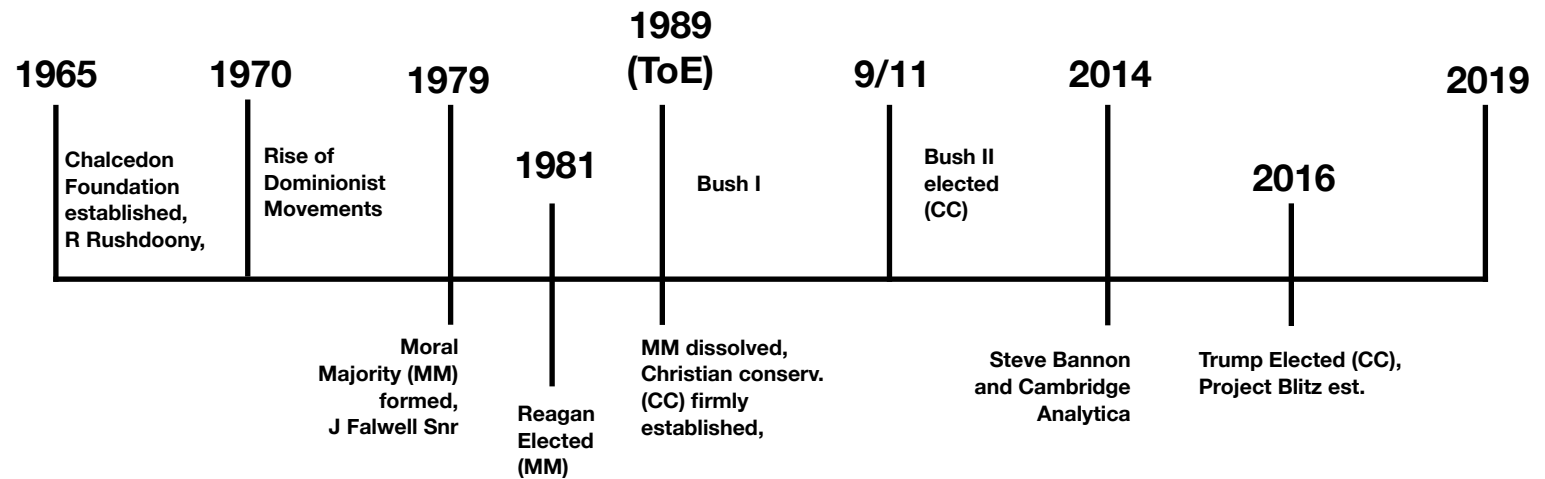


Sunday Law Part 2



Introductory Thoughts:

- Study will trace the ideological development of Trump's movement.
- It is Trump's movement that is going to bring about the crisis typified by the Sunday Law.
- Opening up of SL if for a future dispensation (Panium SL) — **dispensational pattern chart**.
- By looking at the development of this movement and threading it through we can begin to understand its purpose and its trajectory which is important to understanding the SL.
- **isolated way-mark vs threading through.**
- Study of dispensational reading of SL shows the characteristics of the crisis are found within its dispensation.
 - 1798 - 1863 mark slavery; and 1863 - 1888 mark SL.
 - Therefore the characteristics of our crisis are found within our dispensation.
 - We can begin to understand it by understanding the character of the movement that brings the crisis about.
- The ideological underpinnings of the Christian Right (Trump's base), and the program they wish to enact, can be traced back to the history preceding the Time of the End.
 - The activities of the Moral Majority (and their efforts to obtain political power) are seen.
 - The Moral Majority was part of a broader current in conservative Christianity that has its roots in Dominionism.

Moral Majority and Christian Conservatives

Dominionism

Dominion theology (also known as **dominionism**) is a group of **Christian political ideologies** that seek to institute a nation governed by **Christians** based on their **understandings of biblical law...** The label is applied primarily toward groups of **Christians in the United States**.

Prominent adherents of these ideologies are otherwise theologically diverse, including Calvinist Christian reconstructionism, Roman Catholic Integralism, Charismatic/Pentecostal Kingdom Now theology, New Apostolic Reformation, and others. **Most of the contemporary movements labeled dominion theology arose in the 1970s from religious movements asserting aspects of Christian nationalism.** - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dominion_theology

In the spectrum of Dominionist ideologies there are three common themes:

1. **Dominionists celebrate Christian nationalism**, in that they believe that the United States once was, and should once again be, a Christian nation. In this way, they deny the Enlightenment roots of American democracy.
 2. **Dominionists promote religious supremacy**, insofar as they generally do not respect the equality of other religions, or even other versions of Christianity.
 3. **Dominionists endorse theocratic visions**, insofar as they believe that the Ten Commandments, or “biblical law,” should be the foundation of American law, and that the U.S. Constitution should be seen as a vehicle for implementing Biblical principles. <https://www.politicalresearch.org/2005/12/05/the-rise-of-dominionismremaking-america-as-a-christian-nation>
- In connection with their rejection of equality is racism (justifications of segregation and even slavery).
 - And they adopt a Biblical model which promotes a patriarchal (sexist) vision for society.

Origins

- There are two main schools of Dominionism - Christian Reconstructionism and National Apostolic Reformation.

Christian Reconstructionism

Christian reconstructionism is a “[1] *Reformed theonomic*”¹ movement that developed under the ideas of Rousas Rushdoony, Greg Bahnsen and Gary North;^[2] **it has had an important influence on the Christian Right in the United States.**^{[3][4]} In keeping with the *cultural mandate*, reconstructionists advocate *theonomy* and the restoration of certain biblical laws said to have continuing applicability.^[5] **The movement declined in the 1990s and was declared dead in a 2008 Church History journal article,**^[6] although Christian reconstructionist organizations such as the *Chalcedon Foundation* and *American Vision* are active today.^{[7][8][9]} Christian reconstructionists are usually *postmillennialists* and followers of the *presuppositional apologetics* of *Cornelius Van Til*.^[10] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_reconstructionism

Rousas John Rushdoony

- Rousas John Rushdoony (April 25, 1916 – February 8, 2001) was a theologian who was born in NY. He came from a family that escaped the Armenian Genocide.
- Studied Theology at the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley California in 1944.

¹ **Theonomy**, from *theos* (god) and *nomos* (law), is a hypothetical Christian form of government in which society is ruled by *divine law*.^[1] Theonomists hold that divine law, including the judicial laws of the Old Testament, should be observed by modern societies.^[2]

- Spoke and wrote prolifically from the 1950s - 1970s; and up to his death in 2001.
- Framed the concept of "Christian Reconstructionism" - belief that biblical law (including stoning for adultery and other offences) should replace secular law.
- He was also a prominent figure in the Christian home school movement during his active years.

Rushdoony was, and remains, a controversial figure, as is the Christian Reconstructionist movement in which he was involved. Pointing to Rushdoony's support for the [death penalty](#), the [British Centre for Science Education](#) decried his perceived dislike of democracy and tolerance.^[8] Furthermore, Rushdoony has been accused of [Holocaust denial](#) and [racism](#).^[34] According to [Frank Schaeffer](#), Rushdoony believed that [interracial marriage](#), which he referred to as "unequal yoking", should be made illegal.^[35] He also opposed "**enforced integration**" [**he was a segregationist**], referred to [Southern slavery](#) as "benevolent", and said that "some people are by nature slaves".^[36] Kerwin Lee Klein, however, argues that Rushdoony was not a "biological racist" and that for him "racism founded on modern biology simply represented another pagan revival."^[37] [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/R. J. Rushdoony](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/R._J._Rushdoony)

- Racism, sexism, conspiracy theories (r.e. Holocaust), the idea that the government should be ruled on the basis of a narrow, tyrannical and intolerant conception of Christianity.

Yet another way to think about tracing the subtle influence of Rushdoony's early work is to isolate aspects that find expression in contemporary discourse. In each of these examples, Christian Reconstructionists are part of a broader coalition of influences that make up American conservatism. They are not solely responsible for these ideas, yet politically engaged conservative religion is a core aspect of American conservatism. **Reconstructionists have developed and perpetuated certain styles of conservative religion, which have pushed beyond the boundaries of their narrow world to have a broader influence in shaping how conservative religious Americans understand the application of their faith to aspects of culture and politics.**

...In 2004 Massachusetts was the only state that recognized same-sex marriage. In just a decade, thirty-six states (plus Washington, DC) did so, such that 70 percent of Americans were living where there was marriage equality when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Obergefell v. Hodges* [2015] that marriage equality was protected by the Constitution. **In those eleven years we saw increasingly vociferous assertions that marriage equality would come at the "expense of religious freedom."** This assertion was puzzling to many who understand the protections for "religious freedom" in a framework shaped by the Enlightenment, that is, pertaining to individuals and their relatively private beliefs... **But Reconstructionists have not understood "religion" in this way. Every aspect of life is religious and is to be lived in obedience to biblical law.** Secular society is not religiously neutral; it is understood in this perspective as constitutive of a rival (false) religion. **As early as 1963, Rushdoony framed the conflict between secularism and Christianity over religious liberty in exactly the way it is framed by conservative Christians in the wake of *Obergefell*.**

Some twenty years after Rushdoony wrote, **Gary North (Rushdoony's son-in-law and once heir-apparent to the movement's leadership)** made the Reconstructionists' understanding of the implications of this understanding of freedom more explicit when he wrote: **"So let us be blunt about it: we must use the doctrine of religious liberty to gain independence for Christian schools until we train up a generation of people who know that there is no religious neutrality, no neutral law, no neutral education, and no neutral**

civil government.... Then they will get busy constructing a Bible based social, political, and religious order which finally denies the religious liberty of the enemies of God.”

- Rushdoony framed the fight for the right discriminate against homosexuals as a matter of religious freedom for Christian conservatives.
 - This is the same argument set forth right-wing conservatives today.

Anyone paying attention will note the overlap between the strongly religious “red states” and the Old South. This is not coincidence, and **Reconstructionists have had a role to play in preservation and resurgence of the values of the Confederacy**. In addition to traditional reformed theologians, Rushdoony relied on a theological system and worldview promoted by R. L. Dabney, a Southern Presbyterian who was the architect of important aspects of Southern religion, defending not only slavery but also a broad view of civilization that was perceived of as the biblical model. Rushdoony promoted Dabney’s argument that **the U.S. Civil War was a fight to defend a Christian, patriarchal, agrarian culture against the decaying humanism of Northern Unitarianism and industrialism. Underlying this was a deep critique of egalitarianism as undesirable, unworkable, and unbiblical**. He taught Dabney’s work to his followers and helped ensure that it was republished. **Rushdoony also wrote approvingly of slavery apologist and vice president of the Confederacy Alexander H. Stephens**. Rushdoony agreed with Stephens that **the cause of the Civil War was “not slavery but Centralism,” which remains a common argument in today’s far right** that is easily disputed by the various states’ secessionist resolutions themselves. Rushdoony cites Stephens’s views on slavery and equality:

- Something that is seen today in American conservatism is an effort to rehabilitate the image of the South.
 - Rushdoony incorporated the Southern apologists arguments in his development of what he considered a Biblical World View.

The “cornerstone” of Constitutionalism for Stephens was not equality but a general “principle” of subordination of the inferior to the superior.” This slavery upheld.... Stephens did not see slavery as an economic fact so much as a social fact, not so much one of capital and labor as one of superior and inferior.... not equality but justice should govern the political or moral order and should be the controlling principle.

Importantly, **Rushdoony integrated the Southern apologists’ values in his development of what he considered a biblical worldview: a society that rejects democratic principles, including the notion that governmental authority derives from the consent of the governed, and that is opposed to the values of egalitarianism [equality of all people], pluralism [belief that different beliefs can coexist in society], and tolerance [the ability or willingness to tolerate opinions or behaviour that one dislikes or disagrees with]... <https://www.oxfordhandbooks.com/view/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199935420.001.0001/oxfordhb-9780199935420-e-25?print=pdf>**

- The opposition to egalitarianism, pluralism, and tolerance is the ideological heritage of the Christian Right.

"The fights that we're seeing right now over how religious freedom and constitutionally protected equality for the LGBT community, how those two things fit together—or don't—that fight was presaged by theologian Rousas John Rushdoony in the '60s. He talked about that fight. Not particularly with regard to LGBT, but with regard to the expansion [of rights]—it was civil rights. He didn't say explicitly racially-based civil rights, but that's what he was talking

about in the era.” https://www.salon.com/2015/07/31/secrets_of_the_extreme_religious_right_inside_the_frightening_world_of_christian_reconstructionism/

- Rushdoony founded Chalcedon in 1965 to spread his ideas and he coined the term Christian Reconstructionism that year.
- Chalcedon has been referred to by Newsweek as the “think tank” of the religious right.
 - It is important to know that it has a hate group designation with the Southern Poverty Law Center - for its racist and anti-gay teaching.

Fueled by the political writings of Rushdoony and the social activism of Schaeffer, and energized by the Supreme Court's 1973 decision in *Roe v. Wade*, Jerry Falwell and Tim LaHaye launched the Moral Majority in 1979. That same year, Beverly LaHaye started Concerned Women for America as a biblical counterpoint to the National Organization for Women. Since then the Christian Right has seldom looked back, even as it has taken on wildly apocalyptic overtones.

By the early 1980s the Christian Right had formed a voting bloc that burgeoned into a powerful movement. It effectively ushered Ronald Reagan [1981], George H. W. Bush [1989], and George W. Bush [2001] into the presidency [and Trump in 2016]. <http://libertymagazine.org/article/the-rise-of-dominionism-and-the-christian-right>

- Falwell and other Evangelical leaders drew inspiration from various sources but the writings of Rushdoony are prominent among them.

2014

- Steve Bannon (a Dominionist) began his work with Cambridge Analytica in 2014.

In an essay that appears in *La Civiltà Cattolica*, the Rev. Antonio Spadaro and Marcelo Figueroa analyze the nexus [connection] between fundamentalist evangelical Christians and American conservative Catholics. They list Bannon among the exponents of a “dominionist” doctrine that “submit[s] the state to the Bible with a logic that is no different from the one that inspires Islamic fundamentalism.”

“Theirs is a prophetic formula: fight the threats to American Christian values and prepare for the imminent justice of an Armageddon, a final showdown between Good and Evil, between God and Satan,” Spadaro and Figueroa write. <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/article/peers-of-pope-francis-criticize-steve-bannons-apocalyptic-worldview/>

2016

- Dominionists in key positions in Trump campaign and government.

Whether Donald Trump knows it or not, Dominionists are now in control of his presidential campaign. In recent weeks, Trump has appointed **Stephen Bannon** to the position of campaign CEO and **Kellyanne Conway** as campaign manager. **Both of these individuals are members of the Council For National Policy, a secretive Dominionists organization. In fact, Kellyanne Conway sits on the executive committee.**

Dominionists believe that America is a Christian nation and they oppose the separation of church and state. Ted Cruz’s father is a Dominionist preacher. **They mix well with**

Christian Reconstructionists who want to impose strict biblical laws on America including execution for adultery, blasphemy, and homosexuality. These two fringe religious groups make up the majority of the Council's 500 member base; along with a colorful array of extreme activists on the far right. The Council's goal is to manipulate government agenda from within.

Nation magazine says that **the Council “networks wealthy right-wing donors together with top conservative operatives to plan long-term movement strategy.”** Marc Ambinder of ABC News said “The group wants to be the conservative version of the Council on Foreign Relations.” That’s the organization Ted Cruz’s wife Heidi worked for previously.

...the Council For National Policy... was founded in 1981 by fundamentalist Baptist pastor Tim LaHaye, author of the Left Behind book series and the head of the Moral Majority organization. https://www.huffpost.com/entry/dominionists-gain-control-of-trump-campaign_b_57c817d0e4b06c750dd8d25a

Council for National Policy:

The Council for National Policy (CNP) is, in the words of *The New York Times*, “a little-known club of a few hundred of the most powerful conservatives in the country,” an organization so tight-lipped that it tells its people not to admit membership or even name the group. It is important enough that last fall, according to an account in *The National Review*, **Donald Trump and five other Republican presidential candidates each took 30 minutes to address the group;** the conservative journal reported that Trump was by far the favorite candidate...

...The Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) recently obtained a copy of the [CNP's 2014 Membership Directory](#), a 191-page compendium that lists 413 members, 118 members who have died, and 14 past presidents. **The list is surprising, not so much for the conservatives who dominate it — activists of the religious right and the so-called “culture wars,” along with a smattering of wealthy financiers, Congressional operatives, right-wing consultants and Tea Party enthusiasts — but for the many real extremists who are included.**

Ralph Dollinger, he leads a weekly Bible study group² at the White House that is attended by the Vice President and members of the Cabinet [group was established in 2018 after 100 years]. He's very fond of the word king. Donald Trump to them isn't a president, he's a king. He said that he hopes very soon, it's Christian believers that will become perfect governing authorities in the United States...

In 2017, Dollinger told the Christian Broadcasting Network that the people in his Bible study “are so teachable.” He then bragged about how “Jeff Sessions [will] go out the same day I teach him something and he’ll do it on camera. And I just think, man, these guys are faithful, available, and teachable.” <https://thinkprogress.org/white-house-bible-study-group-trump-child-separation-policy-24de236c4824/>

Paula White spoke at his inauguration. She leads a huge mega church and she teaches the prosperity Gospel. She has assured Donald Trump that he is saved. She says God has told her that Donald Trump is perfect and saved and he believes her. There is nothing he can do now, he’s saved of God, he cannot make mistakes.

² Inside the White House Bible Study group, <<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-43534724>>

Paula White to head Trump's faith office

Jan 10, 2020

Paula White, a Pentecostal preacher and longtime adviser to President Donald Trump, has been tapped to head the White House's Faith and Opportunity Initiative, a successor to previous administrations' faith-based office that coordinates outreach to religious communities.

"Paula White is the Advisor to the (White House) Faith & Opportunity Initiative," read a statement from the White House sent to Religion News Service. A White House spokesperson later said, "She is heading up that initiative."

The news of White's new role was first reported by The New York Times.

The appointment of the popular author and former pastor of a Florida megachurch, sometimes called "the Trump whisperer" for her closeness to the president, has been long anticipated.

Two individuals who regularly engage with the federal government told RNS earlier this year that a federal official explained to them that the Florida pastor was expected to head the agency. The individuals did not want their identities revealed out of concern of reprisal.

Americans United for Separation of Church and State was quick to denounce White's appointment on Nov. 1, 2019.

"Televangelist Paula White is unfit to serve in the position of advisor to the White House Faith and Opportunity Initiative," read a statement from Americans United President Rachel Laser. "She has no experience in government or public service and no history of undertaking the kind of interfaith outreach necessary for this role. Instead, she has operated in the shadows to influence public policies that discriminate against women, LGBTQ people and religious minorities, and the nomination of partisan judges who will support those harmful policies."

She added: "This appointment is yet another example of President Trump pandering to his evangelical Christian supporters as he scrambles to secure his base amidst an impeachment investigation." <https://www.ncronline.org/news/politics/paula-white-head-trumps-faith-office>

Project Blitz (An Organization With a Dominionist Agenda)

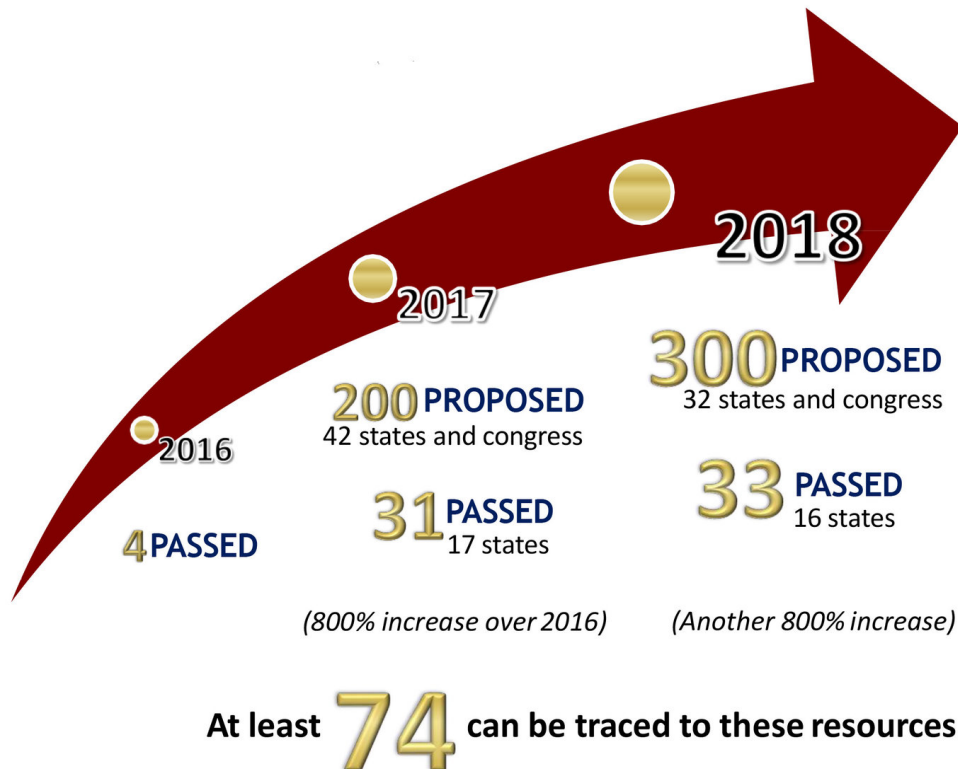
The Christian and business Right has been steadily building political, policy and legislative capacity in the states since the 1980s. Among the best-known elements of this multifaceted, long term project are the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), the State Policy Network and the Family Policy Alliance (the latter is currently affiliated with Focus on the Family, Family Research Council, and Alliance Defending Freedom.)

Since 2016, a Christian Right state legislative campaign called Project Blitz has become part of this infrastructure. The stated [purpose](#) of Project Blitz is: "To protect the free exercise of traditional Judeo-Christian religious values and beliefs in the public square, and to reclaim and properly define the narrative which supports such beliefs." But its more explicitly [Dominionist](#) agenda becomes clear in the manual where organizers frame model resolutions on heterosexual marriage, gender, and adoption as intended to advance "biblical values." <https://www.politicalresearch.org/2019/04/11/blitzing-to-dominion>

Clarkson [a journalist] exposed the effort [Project Blitz] in 2018, and soon groups like Americans United, Political Research Associates (where Clarkson works) and others were well aware of what was going on and told the media. A spate of news stories followed. (Several of these groups later formed a website, [BlitzWatch](#), which has lots of great resources.)

Now Blitz backers realize they have a problem. The group, led by former U.S. Rep. Randy Forbes (R-Va.) and endorsed by a bevy of Religious Right organizations, held a strategy call Oct. 24 to discuss what to do about it.

One of the things they decided to do was rename Project Blitz. The effort is now known as – wait for it – “Freedom for All.” It’s quite the misnomer, considering they only promote religious freedom for a select few while undermining that same freedom for everyone else. <https://www.au.org/blogs/project-blitz-exposed>



2018

- Jerry Falwell Jr. and the Trump Prophecy.

Christian nationalism, explained through one pro-Trump propaganda film

The Trump Prophecy, a new evangelical film, wants to convince you God chose Trump...

Another striking element of *The Trump Prophecy* is the way in which it seamlessly unites two very different models of contemporary evangelicalism. On the one hand, it's part-funded by the late Jerry Falwell's Liberty University, a traditional bastion of what you might call "old-school" evangelicalism. The kind of evangelicalism Falwell (and his son,

Jerry Falwell Jr., Liberty's current president) represented was political and institutional. Arising out of the Moral Majority movement of the 1980s, Falwell's "old school" evangelicalism focused primarily on hot-button social issues, like segregation, abortion, and same-sex marriage, and on delivering appropriately conservative candidates into public offices.

But *The Trump Prophecy's* focus on, well, prophecy, and the figures it chooses to highlight in its interview portions come from a different evangelical tradition altogether: what's often referred to as the New Apostolic Reformation (NAR), an umbrella term for a loosely connected network of mostly-Pentecostal evangelical preachers who focus on miracles, spiritual healing, and prophecy.

Longtime Trump ally Paula White is associated with this tradition, as are Bachmann, Wallnau, and Barton. The real-life Dr. Colbert, whose self-help and diet books are the subject of some egregious product placement, is also a regular guest on the television shows of Ken Copeland and Jim Bakker, two other evangelists associated with the NAR.

The NAR, furthermore, is frequently associated with a theology known as "dominionism," or the belief that — in order to bring about the Second Coming of Christ — Christians must first transform the world (or at least America and Israel, more on that in a second) into a Christian nation alongside Biblical principles.

The idea of political Christian control of America, in this paradigm, is inextricably linked to concerns about the apocalypse. While the narrative portion of the movie references this only obliquely, the interview portion is much more explicit. Trump is likened to Israel's right-wing president Benjamin Netanyahu who, the film suggests, is also chosen by God. The film's interviewees highlight the importance of a close relationship between America and Israel — the two countries to have "special covenants" with God — and praise Trump's controversial decision to **move the Israeli embassy to Jerusalem**, which **many evangelicals see** as a necessary step to fulfill various end times prophecies.

While this ideology makes up the movie's subtext, not its text, it nevertheless underpins *The Trump Prophecy's* overall point. Trump isn't just good because God chose him or because he is in authority now. He's also helping bring us one step closer to the Second Coming. <https://www.vox.com/2018/10/8/17941066/the-trump-prophecy-liberty-university-christian-nationalism>

- Today we see:
 - The undermining of America's democratic institutions and a rise of autocracy.
 - A purposeful blurring of the division between church and state by Trump and his officials.
 - A tacit support for white nationalism.
 - A rise of discriminatory policies that target immigrants, the LGBTQ community, and women (work place accommodation and reproductive rights).
 - Discrimination under the guise of religious freedom.
- All the above are a demonstration of aspects of Dominionist ideology.